

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 13th April 1901.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(h)—General—concl'd.	
The Irish scene in the House of Commons	... 235	The Koderma shooting case	... 237
Increased military expenditure	... ib.	Lord Curzon's reforms	... 238
How England can maintain its supremacy	... ib.	The Subordinate Judicial Service	... ib.
The war cloud in the Far East	... ib.	Mr. Pennell	... ib.
The Boer War and the military force of India	... ib.	Ditto	... ib.
		Ditto and the Government	... ib.
		Ditto	... ib.
		Ditto	... ib.
		The Pennell case	... ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Ostracism of Hindus in the Opium Department	... ib.
(a)—Police—		Malpractices in a Sub-Registration office	... ib.
A Police Inspector committed for trial	... 235	The Viceroy's speech on the Budget debate	... ib.
Police officer in trouble	... ib.	Lord Curzon's twelve reforms	... 239
The transfer of Osman Ali	... ib.	Lawyers in the Sonthal Parganas	... ib.
Budmashes in Madhepura	... 236	Dismissal of public servants	... ib.
A railway complaint	... ib.	Census expenses paid from Chaukidari Fund	... ib.
Charge against police at Samastipur	... ib.	Road Cess Fund and District Engineers	... ib.
The police and the Bombay train-wrecking case	... ib.	The Chapra case Resolution	... ib.
		Police espionage on Mr. Tilak	... ib.
		Mr. Sunder vindicated	... ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The Budget and the Provincial Service	... 240
The High Court and the Noakhali adultery case	... 236	Lawlessness in Madaripur	... ib.
Ditto ditto	... ib.	The Provincial Executive Service and Sub-Deputy Collectors	... ib.
		The salvation of India	... ib.
(c)—Jails—		Administration of Bagirhat	... ib.
Nil.		Grievances of clerks	... ib.
		Threatened action by a Pleader against the Magistrate of Bhagalpur	... ib.
(d)—Education—		III.—LEGISLATION.	
Zulum in the University Examination Hall at Bhagulpur	... 236	Criminal Courts in the Sonthal Parganas	... 240
Education	... ib.		
		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		The interference of Political Officers	... 241
An extraordinary judgment	... 237		
Fees to Municipal Commissioners	... ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Water scarcity in Calcutta	... ib.	Water famine in Mymensingh	... 241
(f)—Questions affecting the Land—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Nil.		Assault by an engine-driver on the East Indian Railway	... 241
(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—		A Hindu girl shot by an European	... ib.
Inadequate waterways on the Bengal Central Railway	... 237	The Press and the Budget Statement	... ib.
Complaint of East Indian Railway employés	... ib.	The Bengal Provincial Conference	... ib.
Delay in recognition of bravery	... ib.	Ditto ditto	... 242
Want of accommodation on the East Indian Railway	ib.	A shooting case	... ib.
		The Bengal Provincial Conference	... ib.
(h)—General—		Fight between an European Civilian and a Native Doctor	... ib.
Plague riot in Dinapore	... 237	The Hindus and the <i>Bakr Id</i>	... ib.
The High Court and the Noakhali case	... ib.	The Managership of the Dumraon Raj	... 243
		The national vices of Indians	... ib.
		The Kabuli nuisance	... ib.
		The Colonies and simultaneous examinations	... ib.
		Cooper's Hill College	... ib.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1162. The *Behar News*, referring to the Irish scene in the House, says the scene was thoroughly disgraceful, but appears to think the Irish members did right in making "the best protest possible against the tyrannical encroachment of the Cabinet."

BEHAR NEWS,
30th April 1901.

1163. *Power and Guardian* says the luxury India enjoys of maintaining a large standing army is due to the fear of a military attack from Russia.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
31st March 1901.

The United States has a standing army of 92,000 men, yet in the war with Spain, no difficulty was found in getting lakhs of volunteers. India lacks the strength of volunteers to back the standing army. The want of confidence in the people, which keeps the Government from raising volunteers among the educated Indians, is one of the weakest aspects of the administration.

1164. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, discussing various suggestions for the safeguarding of England in the event of a foreign invasion, suggests that the 70,000 British troops now in India should be withdrawn and used in England, and self-government granted to India. England has no faith in the loyalty of India, because she has no confidence in the system of rule she has introduced here.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th April 1901.

1165. The *Bengalee* thinks that the relations between Russia and Japan have, during the last few days, been so strained that it would be a miracle if war could be prevented.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

The sudden departure of the Russian fleet from Toulon, which looks like a slur on Russia's close ally, France, would never have been ordered without grave political reasons.

The struggle has been regarded as inevitable ever since Japan was forced to relinquish her claims to Corea. The occupation of Corea by Russia would be a death-blow to the national existence of Japan.

We are probably on the eve of a struggle that will decide the fate of the East. Great Britain may be compelled at any moment to give up her neutrality and join in the struggle.

1166. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the Boer War, which has been the source of such tremendous loss to the ruling country, has benefited India by showing that India can safely be relieved of twenty to twenty-five thousand troops.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1167. The Samastipur correspondent of the *Indian Empire* says the Police Inspector Ram Sebak Lall, who has been charged with instructing witnesses to speak against a certain zamindar in a murder case and extorting money from the same witnesses, has been committed for trial under sections 384 and 194, Indian Penal Code.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
2nd April 1901.

1168. The *Behar Herald* gives an account of the Samastipur case, in which a Police Inspector and Sub-Inspector have been suspended and committed to the Sessions under sections 384 and 194, Indian Penal Code.

BEHAR HERALD,
6th April 1901.

1169. The *Bengalee* says no time should be lost in transferring Osman Ali from Noakhali, and enquires "whether there are other Osman Alis in other districts, holding office on a permanent tenure and ruling District and Assistant Superintendents with a lordly sway."

BENGALÉE,
7th April 1901.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

It also asks if it is true that the Subdivisional Officer of Feni has ordered Osman Ali to be prosecuted under section 211, for making a false complaint.

1170. The *Bengalée* and the *Behar Herald* both speak of a gang of *badmashes* at Kurhilghat near Madhepura, who pose as cowherds, and waylay unprotected travellers.

NOTE.—The District Superintendent of Police, Bhagalpur, has been asked for a report.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

1171. On the night of the 3rd instant, gold studs and other valuables were stolen from the luggage of a zamindar named Surendra Narain Singh, who was a passenger by the 35-up train. It is suspected that the thief was an European or Eurasian. The aggrieved Babu applied to the police and the Traffic Department, but no notice seems to have been taken by them.

NOTE.—Assistant Inspector-General, Sealdah, has been asked to report.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

1172. The *Bengalée* produces an account of the Samastipur case in which an Inspector and Sub-Inspector are charged with offences under sections 384 and 194, Indian Penal Code.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1901.

1173. Referring to the decision in a recent train-wrecking case of Bombay, in which the police are said to have used violence to obtain a confession, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says "the policy that prevails here and there in this country is that, when certain crimes have been committed, some one, guilty or not guilty, must be punished. These crimes are riots, murders of Europeans, train-wrecking, and some others."

(b)—Working of the Courts.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
2nd April 1901.

1174. The *Indian Empire*, with the general public, has noticed with regret the decision of the High Court in the Noakhali adultery case, and considers it strange that, in the Dacca rape case, their Lordships should have expressed themselves as they did on the subject of offences against women.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1901.

1175. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says the best interests of the country require that Hindus and Mussalmans should live in peace and amity. If, as a Judge, Mr. Ameer Ali is bound to remain above suspicion, as an Indian, he is bound to see that Hindus and Mussalmans are equally satisfied with his decisions. Then follow selections from the opinions of correspondents and newspapers of Noakhali, Tangail, Chittagong and Dacca, to give an idea of "the dismay the decision of Mr. Justice Ameer Ali has created in the public mind." The *Patrika* promises to publish the judgment of Mr. Ameer Ali and Mr. Pennell in parallel columns.

(d)—Education.

BEHAR NEWS,
30th March 1901.

1176. The *Behar News* has been much pained to hear that the Superintendent in charge of the examination recently held at Bhagalpur, did not allow the students to leave the room to attend to urgent calls of nature. This is regarded as unprecedented *zulum*: "high-handed, heartless and inhuman procedure."

BEHAR NEWS,
30th March 1901.

1177. The *Behar News* urges the people of India to give their earnest attention to the question of education. Purely political agitations, such as the separation of Executive and Judicial functions, would not materially benefit the Indians unless the mass of the population is educated.

The Government has been extravagant and lavish in destructive and unprofitable wars, to the neglect of health, happiness and education.

Figures of population, revenue, and expenditure on education, are then discussed, and the article ends with a suggestion that at least one-tenth of the revenue should be devoted to the "expansion of education in India."

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

1178. The Dacca correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says a stir has been caused among the Hindu community by the judgment of Mr. Gordon, acquitting one Nikunja Behari Sha, who had been sentenced by Deputy Magistrate Babu Chandra Sekhar Kar to two months' imprisonment and fine under section 354, Indian Penal Code. Further particulars are promised.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th April 1901.

1179. The *Bengalee* gives a table of the fees drawn by Municipal Commissioners during the past year, for attendance at Committee or Sub-Committee meetings. The low figure of fees drawn by the eight Hindu Commissioners is compared with the amount drawn by one Muhammadan and some of the Europeans.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

"It is sad," says the *Bengalee*, "to see the example set by Mr. Oldham in refusing to take his fees, and by Mr. Apcar in giving his to the Famine Relief Fund, should not have found a single imitator."

1180. The *Bengalee* complains that, in Ahiritola Street, the water-supply is usually turned on at 6-45, and turned off at 10 A.M. A similiar grievance is believed to exist in most parts of the native town, and Mr. Greer is asked to look into the matter.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

1181. The *Bengalee*, referring to the question put by Babu Lalit Mohun Ghosal, with regard to the deterioration of the health of the villages about Cossipur through inadequacy of the waterways provided by the Bengal Central Railway, hopes that the agitation set on foot will bear fruit.

BENGALÉE,
5th April 1901.

1182. The *Bengalee* complains of the refusal of the Railway authorities at Jamalpur to grant passes to the families of Bengali employes, to enable them to escape from the plague epidemic that is raging in the town.

BENGALÉE,
7th April 1901.

1183. The *Bengalee* wants to know why there is such long delay about rewarding a man named Upendra, who was instrumental in saving from destruction a train on the Bengal Central Railway.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

1184. The *Bengalee* complains of the want of accommodation for third and intermediate class passengers on the East Indian Railway. Holders of intermediate tickets are compelled to travel third-class, and the thirdclass carriages are crowded to excess.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

(h)—*General.*

1185. *Power and Guardian* says it is much to be regretted that the people of Kateswar, Dinapore, should choose to misconstrue the motives of the Subdivisional Officer and oppose disinfection.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
31st March 1901.

1186. *Power and Guardian* learns that on the 27th Mr. Justice Ameer Ali sent for the Pleader for the accused in the Noakhali murder case, and asked him if he intended to make an application. The Deputy Registrar advised the Pleader to make an application for postponement.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
31st March 1901.

This was something unusual, and "the Bar was not a little moved by it." *Power and Guardian* almost wishes the case had not "cropped up at all and the reputation of the High Court remained intact."

1187. The *Indian Empire*, quoting one of reasons given by Mr. Justice Prinsep for releasing Mr. D. A. Whyte on bail,—the consideration of time that must lapse before the trial at an inclement season of the year,—"takes exception to special grounds being created to serve the purpose of Europeans only."

INDIAN EMPIRE,
2nd April 1901.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
2nd March 1901.

1188. The *Indian Empire* complains that though, in his resolution on the Chapra case, Lord Curzon admitted the necessity for the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions, no mention of the subject is found in the now-revealed list of his proposed reforms.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
4th April 1901.

1189. The *Hindoo Patriot* complains of the disadvantages from which the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service suffer in spite of their talents and abilities.

Their initial pay is small, and their promotion is so slow that a Munsif scarcely reach the lowest grade of Subordinate Judge by the time he is compelled to retire. Promotion is retarded by the too frequent granting of extensions of service. The members of the Judicial Service are never, like the Executive Service, promoted to offices outside their department.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
4th April 1901.

1190. The *Indian Empire*, referring to the messages of sympathy sent to Mr. Pennell by the various Bar Associations, says

Mr. Pennell. "it is his hasty suspension that has made him a martyr in the eyes of the people." The refusal of Government to answer the question of the Hon'ble Surendranath Banerjee, has only confirmed the suspicion that gross injustice has been done to Mr. Pennell.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
4th April 1901.

1191. The *Hindoo Patriot* says the Purnea legal practitioners are proposing to give a farewell address to Mr. Pennell on his departure from that station. Mr. Pennell

Ibid. returns to Calcutta on Sunday to await the telegram he expects from the Secretary of State. If the telegram does not arrive, he goes to England by the first mail steamer after the 10th.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th April 1901.

1192. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes Mr. Pennell's correspondence with the Chief Secretary on the subject of his being given facilities for studying Sanskrit.

Mr. Pennell and the Government.

REIS AND RAYYET,
6th April 1901.

1193. *Reis and Rayyet* says it is now a month since Mr. Pennell was suspended, and as he has already suffered a pecuniary penalty of Rs. 2,100 for his offence

Mr. Pennell. against the High Court, the Judges might now recommend his reinstatement. But it is feared that suspension is only the commencement of his sufferings; still, whatever be the view taken by the High Court and Government, the people of this country cannot but be grateful to Mr. Pennell.

BENGALIEE,
10th April 1901.

1194. The *Bengalee* reproduces the letter of the Chief Secretary returning to Mr. Pennell the memorial submitted by him to the Secretary of State. No comment is made.

Ibid.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1901.

1195. "When the Anglo-Indian papers cannot justify the policy of Government," says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, "they follow the policy of silence." That is why the

Pennell case has been ignored by the European Press, though it has damaged the reputation of men and measures.

The *Statesman*, *Capital* and the *Bengal Times* are referred to as the only English-owned papers that have taken up the subject. The article from *Capital* is reproduced. The *Patrika* appreciates it generally, but objects to its suggestion that a Judge should be dismissed for intemperate language.

BENGALIEE,
5th April 1901.

1196. The *Bengalee* complains of the exclusion of Hindus in the recent appointments to the Opium Department. "Never was the ostracism of a whole people from a great department of the State more complete."

Ostracism of Hindus in the Opium Department.

BENGALIEE,
5th April 1901.

1197. An Assensole correspondent of the *Bengalee* thinks the attention of Government should be drawn to the malpractices in Rural Sub-Registration offices, and names, as

Malpractices in a Sub-Registration office.

among the alleged misdeeds of the amlas, the levying of the "dakhila fee," which is extorted with something like *zulum*, and sometimes amounts to Rs. 8 a day.

BENGALIEE,
5th April 1901.

1198. The *Bengalee* considers the Viceroy's speech on the Budget debate a very disappointing one. The reforms which His Excellency claims to have introduced are, no doubt, moves in the right direction, but they benefit Gov-

The Viceroy's speech on the Budget debate.

ernment officials more than the people of India. The Viceroy's speech is most

disappointing, because it contains no reference to the separation of Judicial and Executive functions—the most important and urgently needed of all reforms.

1199. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says the two reforms that will save the people of India are "more food and less rigour." Lord Curzon's twelve reforms. What the Indians need is protection from hunger and protection from police. The rigour of the criminal administration is eating into the vitals of the people and "day by day emasculating them."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th April 1901.

1200. The *Bengalee* protests against the rules which will not allow an accused person in the Sonthal Parganas to be defended by a Pleader or Mukhtear without the sanction of the Court. The Deoghur subdivision is full of Bengalees and Biharees, yet they are not allowed the privilege of civilised institutions "The law," it says, "teaches the people their rights. It is inconvenient that the Sonthals should know they have rights."

BENGALÉE,
5th April 1901.

1201. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says the rule that no man should be dismissed without being given a chance of explanation, and that the grounds for his dismissal should be distinctly stated in writing, is more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Dismissal of public servants.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th April 1901.

Such was the case with Babu Nobin Chandra Chakrabati, Head Assistant, Commissariat Department, who, after 25 years' service, "one morning awoke to find himself dismissed." For 20 years he has been memorializing the Viceroy to find out the cause of his dismissal, but has got no reply.

The case of Mr. Soler, Clerk of Works, East Indian Railway, Umballa, is no less hard and startling. He has been dismissed on a frivolous charge of "oversight," but the real cause is that he brought a charge of bribery against a superior officer. Mr. Soler's charges against his superior should be enquired into.

1202. The Madaripur correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains that every village panchayet has been compelled to pay out of the Chaukidari Fund, Rs. 5 for the cost of census work. The chaukidari tax is "one of the cruellest of taxes," and "wonder is that such a tax will be spent on census work." Census expenses paid from Chaukidari Fund.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th April 1901.

1203. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a letter from a Bankipore correspondent on the subject of the salaries of District Engineers, which, it says, to a considerable extent explains why the Boards have no money. Road Cess Fund and District Engineers.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th April 1901.

When the road cess was imposed in Bengal, "in violation of the Permanent Settlement," the people were soothed with a promise that the funds would be devoted solely to works, the benefits of which would be "palpable, direct and immediate," and that the money would be distributed and spent by elected local men.

Now, the Road Cess Committee is composed mainly of the nominees of the Government; highly-paid Public Works Engineers are employed, and the proceeds of the cess are diverted to every object other than that for which it is imposed. A list is given of the District Engineers of the Patna Division and their salaries. The work these Engineers do, says the *Patrika*, could be done by an Overseer on Rs. 20 a month. "But no; the poor cess-payers must be made to maintain a large staff of Public Works Engineers, and thus relieve Government of a large sum of money."

1204. The *Bengalee* asks if it was due to oversight that the Chapra case Resolution was never published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The Chapra case Resolution.

BENGALÉE,
7th April 1901.

1205. The *Bengalee* has reason to believe that Mr. Tilak's movements are closely watched by the police. "This is much to be regretted. The Government committed a mistake in sending him to prison; and the memory of that mistake should be effaced as soon as possible." Police espionage on Mr. Tilak.

BENGALÉE,
7th April 1901.

1206. "Careful Observer" writes to the *Bengalee* protesting against the charges and insinuations made by the correspondent "Observer" against Mr. Sunder, the Subdivisional Officer of Bihar. He is of opinion that the charges are made from Mr. Sunder vindicated.

BENGALÉE,
7th April 1901.

motives far from benevolent or even honest, and that "Observer" is one of those persons who harbour bitter feeling against Mr. Sunder, because under his administration they are unable to indulge in certain malpractices to which they have hitherto been used.

BENGALÉE,
7th April 1901.

1207. The *Bengalée*, referring to the schemes of Government for improving the position and prospects of the Provincial Civil Service, points out that the Executive Branch was reorganised only last year, while no such action was taken regarding the Judicial Branch.

The Editor craves leave to impress upon the Government the necessity of creating a Rs. 500 grade of Munsifs.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th March 1901.

1208. The Madaripur correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that, though there is probably no place where administration is carried on more vigorously, the number of murder cases is numerous, and the hospital is full of wounded persons.

He complains that the Magistrates, in their tours, do nothing in the way of testing cases by local investigation, and complains that a Sub-Inspector against whom charges of bribery have been made, has been allowed leave for two months.

BENGALÉE,
9th April 1901.

1209. The feeling of the community is one of gratitude for the promises of Government to redress the grievances of the Provincial Service in both its branches. The *Bengalée* trusts that the claims of the Sub-Deputy Collectors will not be overlooked. These officers are often the equal, in class and ability, of the Deputy Magistrates, and there should not be an impassable gulf between the two—the Provincial and the Subordinate Service. Promotion should be made from the Subordinate to the Provincial Service.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th April 1901.

1210. The *Indian Empire*, in the second of its series of articles on this subject, complains that the rigorous administration of criminal justice in India is answerable for the gradual emasculation of the people, who are now frightened at the mere appearance of either an European or a policeman. It is regarded as an axiom that imprisonment is the undoubted fate of the Indian who comes in contact with either; so he shuns both as he would the plague. In addition to his loss of physical and moral courage, he has periodically to face famine, so that it is no wonder that he is leading a most wretched existence, *sans* stamina, *sans* grit, *sans* everything. He has fallen to the condition of "dumb, driven cattle." The remedy for this state of things will be discussed in a future article. Meanwhile the writer is glad that the subject has attracted the attention of the Indian National Congress.

BENGALÉE,
10th April 1901.

1211. The *Bengalée* complains that during the last five years there have been many changes in the *personnel* of the Sub-divisional Office of the Bagirhat subdivision of Khulna, and hopes they will be stopped, as the subdivision is one of the most turbulent in Bengal and requires a strong executive.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1901.

1212. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hopes Lord Curzon will give his attention to the grievances of the clerks of the Commissariat Department, who are made to work from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., though the regulation office hours are 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M. Either the clerks should be paid overtime, or additional hands should be employed.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th April 1901.

1213. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports that Babu Jagannath Sahai, a Pleader of Bhagalpur, has served a notice on the Officiating Magistrate, warning him of his intention to sue him for damages to the extent of Rs. 5,500, for "wanton use of the expression 'lunatic' in the presence of the Sheristadar and other officers."

III.—LEGISLATION.

BEHAR HERALD,
6th April 1901.

1214. The *Behar Herald* holds that the Hon'ble Baikunta Nath Sen has earned the gratitude of the people of the Sonthal Parganas and a portion of Bhagalpur district, by exposing the disabilities under which an accused person in those districts labours in being debarred from engaging a Pleader to defend

him *without the consent of the Court*. "But," says that organ, "it is one thing to point out the error of our legislators, and quite another thing to argue them into a conviction against the wisdom of anything they may have done. Any discussion about it in Councils is only a farce."

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1215. The *Bengalee* has always known that the unnecessary interference of Political Officers adds to the difficulty of government in the Native States, and this fact cannot be ignored, when even the Gaekwar of Baroda, in his article in the *Nineteenth Century*, makes no secret of his dislike of the officious interference of British Residents. In the contentment of the Native Chiefs lies one of the strongest bulwarks of the Empire, and Lord Curzon is appealed to, to establish relations of true friendship and confidence in place of the discontent that now reigns.

BENGALÉE,
9th April 1901.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1216. The *Hindoo Patriot* reproduces the complaints made in its contemporaries of scarcity of water in Mymensingh, and says "thefts of water and riots in connection with water are becoming of daily occurrence."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
5th April 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1217. *Power and Guardian* thinks there should be a sifting enquiry into the charge of assault brought by a Muhammadan fireman against an engine-driver on the East Indian Railway.

POWER AND GUARDIAN.
31st March 1901.

1218. The *Indian Empire* gives this heading to its account of the Khagole incident reported in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 30th March. No further details are furnished.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
2nd April 1901.

1219. The *Hindoo Patriot* says surely the Government is carrying its ostracism beyond a point, when it deprives the whole Press of a privilege, because of the oversight or mismanagement of one journal.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd April 1901.

1220. The *Bengalee* publishes the following circular letter issued by the President of the Executive Committee of the Midnapore Provincial Conference:—

BENGALÉE,
5th April 1901.

"MIDNAPORE,

"The 30th March 1901.

"DEAR SIR,

"I have the honour to inform you that the Reception Committee of the Bengal Provincial Conference, that is to be held at Midnapore during the Muharrum holidays, on the 27th, the 28th and the 29th April next, propose to lay the following subjects before the Conference for consideration:—

- (1) Expression of sorrow at the Queen's death.
- (2) The separation of Judicial and Executive functions in the administration of criminal justice.
- (3) Local Self-Government.
- (4) Reform of the Police.
- (5) The improvement of the Subordinate Judicial and Executive Services.
- (6) The wider employment of the people in different branches of the Public Service.
- (7) The minor Civil Services.
- (8) Vernacular education.
- (9) Technical education.
- (10) Higher education.

- (11) Extension of the system of trial by jury to advanced districts in Bengal.
- (12) The revival of old and the introduction of new industries, including agricultural industries.
- (13) The wages of indentured coolies in Assam.
- (14) Bengal Mines Bill.
- (15) The plague.
- (16) The prevention and relief of famine.
- (17) Supply of drinking water in Bengal.
- (18) Consideration of the Commutation section of the Bengal Tenancy Act.
- (19) Consideration of the proposed transfer of the subdivision of Contai to Balasore.
- (20) Embankments and drainage of the district of Midnapore.
- (21) The Arms Act.
- (22) Public Demands Recovery Act.
- (23) Excise system in Bengal.
- (24) Publication of an Administration Report from the people's point of view.
- (25) Political education of the masses.

"The list is only a provisional one, and is liable to modifications; some of the subjects may be withdrawn and others may be added. I shall be thankful for any suggestions you may be pleased to make.

"Mr. N. N. Ghose, Barrister-at-law, Editor, *Indian Nation*, has been offered, and has kindly accepted, the Presidentship of the Conference.

"I am confident that there will be a strong muster of delegates from your part of the country. I beg to invite your active co-operation in the movement, and trust you will be pleased to proceed to the election of delegates, and take other steps for making the Conference a success. I shall be obliged by your letting me know, as early as possible, the number of delegates we may expect from your district."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
5th April 1901.

1221. The *Hindoo Patriot* says the Midnapore public is up and doing, to make the coming Provincial Conference a grand success. Funds are being raised from all parts of the district.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th April 1901.

1222. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Chittagong correspondent reports that a Mr. Dignan, of the Assam-Bengal Railway, is now undergoing trial for deliberately firing off a gun at his durwan, Shew Govind. The durwan's injuries were slight.

BEHAR HERALD,
6th April 1901.

1223. The *Behar Herald* publishes a list of subjects that the next Bengal Provincial Conference, to be held during the Muharram at Midnapore, proposes to consider. It is also mentioned that Mr. N. N. Ghose, Barrister-at-Law, and Editor, *Indian Nation*, will be the President of the Conference.

BENGALIEE,
7th April 1901.

1224. The *Bengalee* recounts from the *Pratidhani* of Comilla a story of a fight between Mr. Vas, Subdivisional Officer of Chandpur, and Babu Mathura Nath Nath, the Civil Hospital Assistant of the Matlabganj Dispensary. Somehow the Doctor incurred the displeasure of the Civilian, who was "led to ply his whip on the carcass of the medico. The Doctor returned the blows with interest, and both the combatants carried marks of the fray on their bodies."

NOTE.—A report has been called for on this occurrence.

BENGALIEE,
7th April 1901.

1225. A Bengal Mussalman writes to the *Bengalee* objecting to statements made by that journal, in a recent article on the *Bakr-Id*, to the effect that the Muhammadan of Bengal "misunderstood the great principle of the sacrifice, and often approached it with hate and ferocity in his heart."

The correspondent denies that the *Bakr-Id* calls forth from the Muhammadans any feeling of animosity towards their Hindu neighbours, and it is only

when some "ultra-bigoted sabha or a bigoted Hindu zamindar wishes to palm upon the Mussalmans its caprices and fancies," that the Mussalmans sacrifice kine with any hatred towards Hindus. In the days of Muhammadan rule the Hindus showed no objection to the killing of kine at the *Bakr-Id*, and the Mussalman community believe that the Gaurakhshini Sabha is much to blame for the disturbances that have occurred over kine-slaughter in recent years.

1226. The *Hindoo Patriot*, discussing a rumour that Mr. Fox, Manager of the Dumraon Raj, is about to retire, says that the arrangements to be made by the Government for the future management of Dumraon, will be

The Managership of the Dumraon Raj.

watched with considerable interest. Influential Indian opinion favours the appointment of an Indian and not an European.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
8th April 1901.

1227. The *Indian Empire* holds that the denunciation by Doctor Sarat Chandra Mullick, before the London Indian Society, of some of the national vices of Indians, has aroused

The national vices of Indians.

a feeling of disappointment in this country, and it is held that he did it to serve his own ends.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th April 1901.

1228. Reverting to the subject of extortion through the Civil Courts by Kabulis, the *Bengalee* refers to a case in which the Judge of the Serampore Small Cause Court, granted

The Kabuli nuisance.

to one Naraj Khan, Kabuli, a decree against one Kirtibash Kayal, in a suit for recovery of an alleged loan of Rs. 200 at the rate of 150 per cent. The *Bengalee* quotes evidence to support its contention that the claim was false and the *hathchita* a forgery, and remarks that our Courts are helpless against the tactics of these Kabuli traders.

BENGALIEE,
9th April 1901.

1229. The *Bengalee* says there is every prospect of a revival of the question of simultaneous examinations, which has been allowed to drop out of prominence since the Government ignored the resolution in its favour passed

The Colonies and simultaneous examinations.

in the House of Commons.

BENGALIEE,
10th April 1901.

The Colonies, in return for their services in the South African war, have been allowed to form themselves into a Commonwealth; and now they have demanded certain facilities for entering the Indian Civil Service, by asking that examinations be held in Australia simultaneously with those in London.

Quoting from an article in the *Nineteenth Century* by an Australian Professor, the *Bengalee* notes that the arguments advanced in favour of the proposal are precisely those put forward by the Congress party. Objection is made to the concluding portion of the *Nineteenth Century* article, in which the writer recognizes the difficulty of allowing the examinations in Australia and not in India, refers to the Ilbert Bill controversy, and the objection to large numbers of natives holding the reins of government in India.

The *Bengalee* wishes to rouse public attention to the matter, in order to make it impossible for the Government to allow the examinations in Australia without allowing them in India.

1230. The *Bengalee*, while grateful to the Secretary of State for taking the initiative for the reduction of the expenses of the Cooper's Hill College, would have been glad if

Cooper's Hill College.

the College could be abolished altogether. The Engineering Colleges in India can turn out men of knowledge and usefulness in no way inferior to the Cooper's Hill men, and as many of them as the Public Works Department requires. Instead of spending a large amount on Cooper's Hill, it would be well if the Government spent half the amount on the Indian Colleges.

BENGALIEE,
10th April 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 13th April 1901.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

